



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **DWR to Open New Low-Water Boat Launch Ramp at Lake Oroville**

OROVILLE -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has scheduled a 10 a.m. Sept. 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil its new Lake Oroville low-water boat launch ramp at the Bidwell Canyon Marina, 801 Bidwell Canyon Road, Oroville.

The new "Stage 3" boat ramp provides better access to boaters at Bidwell Canyon Marina when lake levels drop below 705 feet. The lake has fallen to that stage during five drought periods since Lake Oroville was initially filled in the late 1960s.

DWR Engineer Kevin Dossey said, "Local and regional boaters, especially fall and winter anglers, are excited about having year-round access to the lake at all foreseeable water levels".

Previously, the Spillway Stage 2 ramp was Lake Oroville's lowest concrete boat launch facility at 695 feet. The new Bidwell ramp, which was constructed to elevation 675 feet, will be extended to elevation 640 when lake levels allow for it.

Among those participating in the ribbon-cutting will be representatives from DWR, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the California Department of Boating and Waterways. Elected officials from the City of Oroville and Butte County have been invited, along with representatives of the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Oroville Recreation Advisory Committee, and the State Water Contractors.

Demand for a low-water boat ramp was recognized during negotiations for the FERC relicensing agreement. Full implementation of the agreement is awaiting FERC approval of a new license for the Oroville Facilities.

Project construction costs to date are \$1.6 million but will total about \$2.1 million

should the ramp be completed to elevation 640. California's Department of Boating and Waterways is contributing \$275,000.

The completed work involves three principal features:

- A new 1.75-acre concrete parking lot that includes 46 spaces for vehicles with trailers and eight spaces for vehicles only, including two ADA compatible spaces.
- A new 526-foot-long concrete, three-lane boat ramp extending from the parking lot to elevation 640 (should the lake level ever drop that far).
- A new 450-foot-long concrete access road extending from the existing Stage II gravel parking lot to the new Stage III parking lot.

About 5,000 cubic yards of soil excavated during construction were delivered for use at new Riverbend Park soccer fields being built in Oroville by the Feather River Recreation and Parks District.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.*

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.